

**REMARKS/ARGUMENTS****1. Request for Continued Examination:**

The applicant respectfully requests continued examination of the above-indicated application as per 37 CFR 1.114.

The amendments made to the claims in the above section are over the last entered amendment filed September 17, 2004.

**2. Rejection of claims 1-4, 6-7, 9-10, 13-14, and 17-19 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a):**

Claims 1-4, 6-7, 9-10, 13-14, and 17-19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hayakawa et al. (US 5,550,938) in view of Yamamoto (US 6,061,150) for reasons of record.

**Response:**

The applicant has amended claims 1-3, 6, and 13-17 to clarify the claim language and to remove unnecessary limitations. In addition, the limitation "wherein the image data transmission is controlled only by the control unit" has been added to clarify that the control unit controls the image data transmission. This limitation is supported in the specification such as on page 5, lines 18-22. No new matter is added through the amendments to the claims.

On page 3 of the above-indicated office action, the Examiner has stated, "Hayakawa does not disclose, expressly, the portable storage device not being a computer. Yamamoto discloses, the portable storage device 3 not being a computer (Fig 1)."

However, the applicant respectfully disagrees, and submits that the external device 3 taught by Yamamoto is considered to be a computer. According to the definition of "computer" from the Merriam-Webster Dictionary, a computer is "a

programmable electronic device that can store, retrieve, and process data.”

<http://www.m-w.com/cgi-bin/dictionary?book=Dictionary&va=computer&x=0&y=0>

The external device 3 taught by Yamamoto includes a facsimile section 4, a file section 5, an external storage device 6 connected to the file section, a computer interface section 7 for connecting to a computer (PC/WS) 11, a formatter section 8 for making information from the computer 11 visible, an image memory section 9 for temporarily storing information received from the computer 11 and a core section 10 for controlling the above functions (Column 3 lines 53-60, Column 5 lines 57-67, Column 6 lines 1-5). Furthermore, Yamamoto goes on to say in column 15, lines 36-39 that the formatter section 8 of the external device 3 develops image data and rotates images during the development of the image data with a rotation circuit 804, as shown in Fig. 8.

Thus, Yamamoto's external device 3 not only stores and retrieves data, but processes data as well. For this reason, the external device 3 is considered to be a computer, and does not teach the limitation “the portable storage device not being a computer” that is contained in independent claims 1, 6, and 17. In contrast, as stated on page 5, lines 14-15 of the instant application, “The portable storage device 21 could be a hard drive, a floppy drive, a writable optical drive, etc.”

The applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the rejections of independent claims 1, 6, and 17. Claims 2-4, 7, 9-10, 13-14, and 18-19 are dependent on claims 1, 6, and 17 and should be allowed if claims 1, 6, and 17 are allowed. Reconsideration of claims 1-4, 6-7, 9-10, 13-14, and 17-19 is respectfully requested.

3. Rejection of claims 11-12, 15-16, and 20-21 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a):

Claims 11-12, 15-16, and 20-21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hayakawa et al. and Yamamoto in view of Puzio (US 6,332,663) for reasons of record.

**Response:**

Claims 11-12, 15-16, and 20-21 are dependent on the independent claims 1, 6, and 17, and should be allowed if claims 1, 6, and 17 are allowed. Reconsideration of claims 11-12, 15-16, and 20-21 is requested.

In light of the above arguments in favor of patentability, the applicant respectfully requests that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case.

Respectfully submitted,



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Winston Hsu, Patent Agent No. 41,526

P.O. BOX 506, Merrifield, VA 22116, U.S.A.

Voice Mail: 302-729-1562

Facsimile: 806-498-6673

e-mail : winstonhsu@naipo.com

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